

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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SUBJECT: CAO/COMMISSION CONFERENCE: SYMPOSIUM ON "ASIA-US RELATIONS AND THE CULTURAL DIMENSION"

1. TWO HOURS AND FIFTEEN MINUTES HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR SYMPOSIUM ON "ASIA-US RELATIONS AND THE CULTURAL DIMENSION" ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 13, INCLUDING TIME FOR DISCUSSION AMONG ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. WE SUGGEST THAT FOUR SPEAKERS/PANELISTS SPEAK IN FOLLOWING ORDER, WITH QUESTIONS, COMMENTS FROM FLOOR (AND FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG THESE FOUR) BEING RESERVED UNTIL EACH HAS MADE HIS INITIAL PRESENTATION: MR. RICHARDSON, DR. SOEDJATMOKO, MR. OSATANANDA, AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL. EACH OF THESE SHOULD SPEAK INITIALLY FOR ABOUT 15-20 MINUTES.

2. MR. RICHARDSON WILL PRESENT A VIEW FROM THE U.S., FIRST BRIEFLY OF ASIA-US RELATIONS TODAY, THEN OF WHAT WE CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE THROUGH THE "CULTURAL DIMENSION", ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF HOW CULTURAL INTERCHANGE CAN HELP IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND INDIRECTLY AT LEAST GET AT GLOBAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE MADE US AWARE OF OUR INTER-

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DEPENDENCE. HE WILL ALSO TOUCH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUALITY IN CULTURAL INTERCHANGE AND ON THE CHALLENGE THIS PRESENTS TO BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

3. AS DESCRIBED IN MESSAGES AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR. SOEDJATMOKO, IT IS HOPED THAT HE WILL FOCUS ON THE "CULTURAL DIMENSION" IN ASIA-US RELATIONS VIEWED FROM AN EAST ASIAN COUNTRY, ADDRESSING SUCH QUESTIONS AS: THE INFORMATION IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE US AND EAST ASIA; IS AMERICA LISTENING ENOUGH TO ASIA TODAY? IF NOT, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION? HOW CAN ASIA MAKE ITSELF BETTER HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD IN THE US? WHAT KIND OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN COUNTRIES SHOULD WE BE STRIVING FOR? HOW CAN MODERN COMMUNICATIONS FOSTER TRADITIONAL CULTURES INSTEAD OF DIMINISHING THEIR DIVERSITY?

4. MR. OSATANANDA MIGHT ADDRESS THE GENERAL SYMPOSIUM THEME FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF EXCHANGES IN TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS, THEIR VALUE AND HOW SUCH EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE CAN FOSTER IMPROVED INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (AS WELL AS ACHIEVING KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER). HIS COMMENTS ON PARA 3 ABOVE WOULD ALSO BE VALUABLE.

5. AS ALREADY DISCUSSED, DEPARTMENT HOPES AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL WILL PULL TOGETHER THE PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS AND ADDRESS THE FUTURE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING NOT ONLY DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO IMPROVED CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING, DRAWING ON VIEWS HE HAS EXPRESSED PREVIOUSLY.

6. POSTS REQUESTED, AT THEIR DISCRETION, TO PASS ABOVE INFORMATION TO DR. SOEDJATMOKO AND MR. OSATANANDA TO ASSIST THEM IN PREPARING THEIR PRESENTATIONS. INGERSOLL

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